

BRIDGE-BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956

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Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR A. J. ROSS, J.P.

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Public Health Committee

Councillor A. Taylor - (Chairman)  
Councillor J. F. Montgomery - (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor F. E. Spanton.  
Councillor A. R. Palmer.  
Councillor R. S. Poile.  
Councillor F. V. Lee.

Ex Officio Members

Councillor A. J. Ross - (Chairman of the Council)  
Councillor H. Anderson -- (Vice Chairman of the  
Council)

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MALCOLM S. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Senior Public Health Inspector ... H. K. BLUNDELL, B.Sc.  
Additional Public Health Inspector ... J. W. A. BREWSTER, M.A.P.H.I.  
Transport Officer ... L. BOND.  
Public Health Department Foreman ... A. VINTEN.  
Clerical Staff: Clerks in the Senior  
Public Health Inspector's Office Miss J. Manuel. (Left Department  
on 6.10.56.)  
Miss M. Westoby.  
Miss M. Cork. (Commenced Duties  
on 17.9.56.)

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Clerk of the Council: Engineer and Surveyor:  
L. J. WILLIAMS, Esq. P. J. THACKRAY, Esq.

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Offices: Public Health Department, Rural District Council Offices,  
41 Old Dover Road, Canterbury. (Telephone 4216/7.)

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Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1956. The greater part is contributed by Mr. H. K. Blundell, Senior Sanitary Inspector (Public Health Inspector). It is a pity that our denigration of the term Sanitary has necessitated a euphemistic change, for the Sanitary Inspector's function has always been and still is an executive inspectorate fulfilling very important duties in the public health field, which does not require to be sustained by its title. Forty-three years in the service of the public's health is a proud record for a man to carry (thirty-seven of them have been in this district) and Mr. Blundell who retires this autumn is worthy of the gratitude of the community for many improvements over these years. I wish to thank him and the other chief officials for their continuing co-operation in public health affairs, and the Council for its continuing interest.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Population Mid 1956: 19,050 - is a drop of 100 on that of Mid 1955.

Area: 55.868 acres - Unchanged.

<u>LIVEBIRTHS:</u>	Male	99	(Including 7 illegitimate)
	Female	121	(Including 2 illegitimate)
	Total	220	(Total - 9 illegitimate)

STILLBIRTHS:    Male            1  
                  Female         3

                  Total            4    (All within wedlock)

## DEATHS

Neo-natal:      Infant Deaths under 4 weeks    5 = Male 3 Female 2  
   (All under 1 week)  
                 Infant Deaths 4 weeks - 1 yr. 2 = Male 2 Female -  
  
Total Infant Deaths .. .. . 7 (Including 1 illegitimate birth)

All Deaths:	Male	180
	Female	175
	Total	355

Comparability Factors: Births 1.18      Deaths 0.49.

<u>Vital Rates:</u>	Birth Rate (Crude)	.. ..	11.54	per thousand
	Corrected Birth Rate	.. ..	13.61	of the
	Birth Rate England & Wales		15.6	population
	Death Rate (crude)	.. ..	18.63	per thousand
	Corrected Death Rate	.. ..	9.12	of the
	Death Rate England & Wales		11.7	population
	Infant Mortality Rate	..	31.0	(Calculation not significant)
	Infant Mortality Rate			
	England and Wales	.. ..	23.8	per 1,000 births.
	Peri-natal mortality Rate (Infant deaths under 1 week and stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	..	39.3	
	Peri-natal mortality etc. for East Kent United M.O.H. District	.. ..	38.6	

These rates compare with those for 1955 in the following way. The births dropped both in number and as a birth rate.

The death rate has remained above the national level and is influenced by local institutions which have become the permanent home of some of the elderly residents, but is corrected to a low level by the comparability factor.

The causes of death are tabulated below.

Cause	M	F	Total 1956	Total 1955
Tuberculosis, Respiratory .. .. .	2	2	4	2
Tuberculosis, Other .. .. .	-	-	-	-
All other infectious or parasitic diseases	1	1	2	2
Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach .. ..	9	3	12	9
Malignant Neoplasms, Lung and Bronchus	5	1	6	6
Malignant Neoplasms, Breast.. ..	-	5	5	3
Malignant Neoplasms, Uterus.. ..	-	4	4	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	10	24	27
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. .. .	1	3	4	1
Diabetes .. .. .	-	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	11	25	36	36
Coronary Disease, Angina .. .. .	21	9	30	32
Hypertension with Heart Disease .. ..	11	14	25	16
Other Heart Disease .. .. .	51	45	96	121
Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	12	11	23	16
Influenza .. .. .	-	1	1	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	10	11	14
Bronchitis .. .. .	5	4	9	13
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	5	-	5	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. ..	6	1	7	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .. ..	-	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	2	2	4	8
Hyperplasia of Prostrate .. .. .	2	-	2	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. ..	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation .. .. .	2	-	2	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	16	14	30	22
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	1	2	3	3
All other accidents .. .. .	1	5	6	6
Suicide .. .. .	1	1	2	1
Homicide or Water Operations .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Total Deaths ..	180	175	355	348

## INFANT DEATHS

The causes of the 7 infant deaths were:

	Under 24 hours	to 1 week	to 1 month	to 1 year	Total
Prematurity/Atelectasis	-	1	-	-	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum ..	2	-	-	-	2
Birth Injury .. ..	2	-	-	-	2
Congenital condition ..	-	-	-	2	2
Total ..	4	1	-	2	7

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tabulation shows the incidence of cases for the year 1956, shown quarterly for appropriate diseases and in age groups.

Infectious Disease	Quarters				By Age Groups					Totals	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+	1956	1955
Scarlet Fever .. ..	6	1	-	-	1	4	1	1	-	7	7
Measles .. ..	61	12	5	-	33	35	6	4	-	78	362
Whooping Cough .. ..	1	2	28	-	10	11	7	1	2	31	25
Pneumonia .. ..	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	4	3	7	26
Erysipelas .. ..	1	-	-	1						2	3
Dysentery .. ..	4	1	2	-						7	2
Food Poisoning .. ..	-	-	1	-						1	3
Post Infectious Encephalitis ..	-	-	1	-						1	-

Scarlet Fever - A group of 4 cases occurred in Bridge in January and February. Three of these cases were children in Dr. Barnardo's Home with a probable link through school with the other case. Investigation in the Home was carried out in conjunction with the General Medical Practitioner in attendance and no further cases occurred amongst the 25 children or 20 staff and helpers. The County School Health Service helped in checking further infection in the day school.

Mumps - Head teachers of schools provide helpful information on the incidence of minor non-notifiable diseases, and it is thus possible to report the experience in Littlebourne Primary School with Mumps. The prevalence was linked with a similar prevalence in the Wingham and Ash

area of the adjoining district. In a school of approximately 110 pupils mumps broke out immediately on return to school after the Easter holiday, with 4 cases in the latter half of April, 14 cases in May, 15 in June and 10 in July.

Chickenpox - In the same school chickenpox appeared on 1st June and got going by mid-June, totalling 19 cases in that month and 10 in the next. This school experience shows how mumps tends to spread more evenly throughout the epidemic while chickenpox has a quick widely infectious spread. The summer holiday settled both troubles.

#### TUBERCULOSIS DETAIL

##### Age Distribution of Notifications

	Respiratory		Other Forms		Total All Forms
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	-	1	-	3
25 - 45	1	-	-	1	2
45 - 65	-	1	-	1	2
Over 65	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL:	3	1	1	3	8

#### TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Respiratory		Other Forms	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
On register 31.12.56.	78	65	18	21
On register 31.12.55.	81	67	18	19

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA: (Figures supplied by the County M.O.H.)

The following table shows the number of children by year of birth who had completed a course of immunisation prior to 31st December, 1956.



Year of Birth	1942 - 45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	Total
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster 1952-1956.	406	193	262	186	187	144	231	205	177	175	147	25	2,338
1951 or earlier	360	70	24	36	47	112	4	-	-	-	-	-	653

The second table on Diphtheria Immunisation shows the immunisation done during 1956.

Year of Birth	1956	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45 -42	Total
Primary Inoculations	25	130	35	4	3	8	6	1	-	4	2	2	220
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	1	5	6	95	46	7	5	90	18	4	277

The state of active immunisation of the child population against diphtheria was improved by an increase in the primary and booster immunisations.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX: (Figures supplied by the County M.O.H.)

The following table shows the vaccination recorded in 1956.

Year of Birth	1956	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	Before 1945	Total
Primary Vaccination	66	53	1	2	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	7	138
Re-Vaccination	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	20	28

The position on smallpox protection remains the same as in 1955.

## HOUSING CASES

A number of special housing cases were reported on or enquired into during the year and one was of particular interest. A paraplegic who spends his day in a wheel chair could only return home if special housing arrangements were made for him. The Council built an adapted room onto his house and Kent County Council financed the fitting of special apparatus.

## OLD AND INFIRM PERSONS

No case under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act was brought to court, but included in those visited and observed were two cases of elderly men who were helped by the Public Health Department to clean up at home and make their existence tolerable.

## HOUSING FOR OLD PEOPLE

There is a number of old people living in dwellings listed for slum clearance. In fact this is a particular feature of such dwellings. No great progress can be reported to the end of 1956 in the provision of Old Persons Units of accommodation in a location or of a type suitable for Old People, and this is a problem which the Council have yet to solve, and it seems a matter that needs to be firmly grasped.

## FOOD HYGIENE

The operation of the new Food Hygiene Regulations stretched the staffing resources of the department to the utmost, because the two inspectors were well committed on improvement grants and housing inspection work, duties which had added to the routine work over recent years. There was a danger in the ready resort to exemption certificates to cover premises unable at once to comply with the regulations, and it was considered better to make haste slowly with enforcement, and to seek acceptance of the standards and willing co-operation. Progress is reasonably good. But the problem of the small country shop, of great local usefulness, but with small capital and income, facing up to sanitary improvements to comply with the letter of the law, is one that will take some time to overcome.

## WATER SUPPLY

A number of small water supply extensions were considered during the year.



The Senior Public Health Inspector has provided the following report on the work of his department during 1956 and comments on some aspects of that work.

### ESTABLISHMENT

For some years now the department has been operating one under establishment, naturally this has resulted in reduced efficiency. During the last two or three years improvement grants have come to the fore, with the result that a considerable amount of time is spent dealing with enquiries and applications. In order to accommodate this extra work it has been necessary to reduce the number of Public Health and Food Hygiene visits. Every year new legislation is being placed on the statute book, and as will be noted in this report, this year has been no exception. Looking to the immediate future it seems quite certain that the new Rent Bill will become law, and unless tenant and landlord can come to agreement on rent increases and conditions of dwellings, numerous applications for Certificates of Disrepair will be received.

### HOUSING

As is to be expected housing took up the majority of the departments time. Over 900 visits were made under the various Housing and Public Health Acts, to deal with items such as improvement grants, unfit housing complaints and minor defects, overcrowding and cleanliness. Statistics on housing work will appear at the end of this section, but I would like to make a few comments on the two most important aspects of housing work, namely improvement grants and the slum clearance programme.

#### (a) Improvement Grants

During the course of the year grants in respect of 49 properties were completed and it was interesting to note that of this figure, 14 were owner/occupied, 27 were agricultural cottages, and 8 were normal lettings. The number of grants made on property which is let to a tenant is very small, but this picture is the same throughout the whole country and is probably where the Grant system has partly failed. Although as far as the individual Authority is concerned the majority of grants increase the rateable value and also ensures fit houses for at least a further 20 years. The figure of 49 included 7 houses which had been classed as unfit and 3 buildings which have been converted into housing units. Beside the number of completed applications, 14 new applications were approved, 3 of which were later withdrawn.

With no Housing Survey to carry out it was possible to deal with the steady flow of applications throughout the year. The majority of delay in dealing with applications is caused by incomplete information, as is understandable the builder does not want to submit his estimate in detail to his client unless he knows that he is to receive the job.

(b) Slum Clearance

1956 was the first year of the slum clearance programme and included the Parishes of Bridge, Barham, Chartham and Petham. At the end of the year the position was as follows:-

Parish	No. of Unfit Properties on Survey	Demolished or Closed	Made Fit	Properties in Process of being made fit	Action Deferred	Action Proceeding
BRIDGE	18	-	1	5	8	4
BARHAM	2	1	-	-	1	-
CHARTHAM	8	1	-	2	1	4
PETHAM	2	-	1	1	-	-

Beside the information enumerated above, the following table shows the number of slum clearance properties dealt with during the year, which for various reasons were brought forward from the programme for the 2nd to 5th years:-

Parish	Demolished or Closed	Made Fit	Properties in Process of being made fit	Action Deferred	Action Proceeding
ADISHAM	1	2	-	-	-
BLEAN	1	-	4	-	-
CHISLET	-	-	-	1	-
HOATH	-	-	-	1	-
STURRY	-	-	-	2	-
THANINGTON	-	2	-	-	-
UPPER HARDRES	-	-	2	-	-
WICKHAMBREAUX	1	-	-	-	-

As rents are still frozen at various pre 1939 levels, it is very difficult to get owners to spend money on their property, as it has been estimated that housing repairs have increased by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times the pre-war cost. It is, therefore, unreasonable to expect the owner to carry out a programme of improvement of major repair work at existing rents. I feel that the Council should vigorously pursue a programme of purchasing unfit houses that have sound structures, as it is far cheaper to purchase and improve such properties with the aid of improvement grants, than erecting new houses together with the provision of roads and services etc. this action also has the effect of preserving the charm of a village.

### (c) Housing Statistics

A.	New houses erected by the Council .. .. .	17
	New houses under construction by the Council .. .. .	20
	New houses erected by Private Enterprise .. .. .	38
	Houses demolished under Housing Acts .. .. .	3
	Houses demolished by other persons.. .. .	Nil
	Houses otherwise closed for human habitation under Housing Acts.. .. .	7
	Houses otherwise closed for human habitation by other persons. . . . .	Nil
	Conversions of properties into dwellings under Housing Act. .	3
	Conversions of properties into dwellings by other persons. .	Nil
	Conversions of properties in progress under Housing Act. .	1
	Conversions of properties in progress by other persons. .	Nil
B.	<u>Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year</u>	
1.(a)	Number inspected under Housing Acts .. .. .	102
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose .. .. .	592
(c)	Number of miscellaneous Housing visits .. .. .	140
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 11).. .. .	23
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 9) .. .. .	Nil
4.	Number of representations made to local authority with a view to:-	
(a)	serving of notices requiring the execution of works (Section 9). . . . .	Nil
(b)	the making of demolition or closing orders (Section 11) . . . . .	23
5.	Number of cases of overcrowding known to the local authority at 31st December, 1955 .. .. .	5
6.	Number of such cases identified during 1956.. .. .	3
7.	Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1956	6

C. Remedy of Defects without service of Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under Housing Acts ..	Nil
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under Public Health Acts.. .. .	16

D. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1. Number of dwelling houses on which notices were served requiring repairs. .. ..	Nil
2. Number rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(i) by owners. .. .. .	Nil
(ii) by Local Authority in default. .. ..	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1. Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts.. .. .	27
2. Number of houses visited under Public Health Acts	117
3. Number of dwelling houses on which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. .. .	9
4. Number in which defects remedied after service of formal notices:	
(i) by owners .. .. .	4
(ii) by Local Authority in default .. ..	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1. Number of dwellings on which Demolition Orders were made. .. .. .	5
2. Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition Orders. .. .. .	3
3. Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. ..	6
3a. Number of unofficial undertakings accepted.. ..	5

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms on which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
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(e) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949:

1. Number of Closing Orders made under Section 3(1). Nil
2. Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2) .. .. . Nil

(f) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:

Closing Orders made under Section 10(1). .. .. . 1

FOOD AND DRUGS

The year 1956 saw a change in Food and Drugs legislation in as much as the old Food and Drugs Act, 1938, with a few minor exceptions, was replaced by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The old Section 13, which formed the basis of Food Hygiene, was replaced by new Regulations which have made sweeping changes and augmented the completely inadequate standards of the past.

The new Act has made a lot of additional work in this field during the past 12 months, as besides calling for a complete reinspection of premises covered by the old Act, factory canteens, schools, hospitals etc. now call for the attention of the Health department. The various premises together with comments are set out below.

(a) Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels Etc.

Under this heading there are 21 premises within the area, which can be sub-divided into three classes, namely:-

Transport Cafes - 6.

Hotels and Guest Houses - 6. (Excluding licenced premises)

Cafes, Tea Rooms, Etc. - 9.

Visits have been made to all of these premises, and the occupiers attention drawn to any contravention of the regulations. It is very difficult in some cases where there is only a seasonal trade, to secure large improvements.

(b) Bakehouses

One bakehouse in the district closed down during the year and there are now only 9 businesses in operation. On the whole these bakehouses are well up to average standard and the only fault that one can find with the majority of them, is that they are far too small for the present day business where the manufacture of confectionery is carried out in addition to the baking of bread. The premises in the Sturry area are perhaps not in such a good condition as the remainder in the district, but it is impossible at the moment to secure further improvements until the village has been redeveloped.



(c) Butchers Shops

The 12 Butchers Shops in the district have all been visited on numerous occasions during the year and all of the shops have been registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1956, for the manufacture of Sausages and Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved foods.

Before various shops were registered a lot of work was carried out by the occupiers under the Food Hygiene Regulations, e.g. repair of internal structures, provision of hot water and the repair of worn benches and tables, etc. Once again the redevelopment of Sturry prevents further improvements being made at the temporary shop serving that area.

(d) Fish Shops

There are 2 such shops within the district both of which retail fried and fresh fish. The temporary wooden hut in Sturry which is unsuitable for this type of business, is only licensed annually by this Authority, and I understand the owner is trying to secure alternative accommodation.

(e) Shops

Of 112 shops in the district 92 deal in food to varying degrees. There is no great problem as far as food shops are concerned, as the majority of the products sold are pre-packed. The main exceptions appear to be various perishable foods (bacon, cheese, etc) The days when grocers purchased sugar, tea and butter etc. in bulk, appear to be nearing an end. As far as Food Hygiene is concerned this is a step in the right direction. Only 29 of the food shops employ assistants, ranging from 1 to 4 in number, per shop.

Interpretation of the Food Hygiene Regulations in relation to food shops seems to vary from district to district, but the line is taken, that in the owner/occupied business the domestic sanitary accommodation and sink are suitable for all purposes. Where ever possible however, we try to get a constant and instantaneous hot water supply provided. In the shops where assistants are employed the aim is to get separate washing facilities, either in, or as near as possible, to the actual shop. The question of lock-up shops, of which there are 4 in the district, present a further problem, as usually there is not sufficient land available to provide drainage facilities, in which case it has been suggested to the owner that the best way of overcoming washing facilities, is to purchase one of the insulated hot water tanks, complete with a small hand bowl, which discharges into a bucket. There are numerous types on the market, and all that is needed, is for the owner to fill the tank with boiling water which should remain at a suitable temperature throughout the day. The provision of sanitary accommodation is not a problem in this case, as the



occupants of the shops make their own arrangements in this respect, or if only one person is on duty at that time, the shop is closed for a short period.

(f) School Canteens and Kitchens

The supervision of school canteens and kitchens is now a matter for Local Authority Health Departments. This is a step in the right direction. All of the schools in the area were inspected during the year. There are 19 schools run by the County Education Department and 5 Private schools.

Eight of the County schools have their own kitchens, 2 receive food from Herne Bay, 1 from Chartham, 1 from Eythorne, and 7 from Sturry. The arrangements for food distribution are as follows:-

All of the food cooked at the centres is packed into insulated containers and delivered to the schools as near as possible to 12 o'clock. Teachers and servers are then responsible for the distribution of the meals and the washing of utensils prior to collection and return to the centres. Some of the County school kitchens or arrangements for the preparation of food are below the standard required, but the County are already aware of these matters and a programme of improvements has already been drawn up.

As far as Private Schools are concerned, Informal Notices together with an abstract of the food regulations have been sent to the owners.

(g) Licenced Premises

Only 25 visits have been made to licenced premises during the course of the year as it was considered more important to deal with the other types of food premises first. Progress in obtaining improvements is slow due to the fact that the various brewers can only deal with a certain number of houses a year and also to the fact that in a large number of country premises, the trade is not sufficiently high to warrant vast improvements.

(h) Other Premises

Under this heading the Local Authority is called on to supervise Hospitals and Institutes, Factory canteens, etc.

(i) Milk and Daries

The undermentioned licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, have been granted to persons retailing milk within this area.

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised ...	15	6
Sterilised ...	2	2
Tuberculin Tested	13	6

There are no pasteurising plants within the district

It has been possible during the year to carry out more milk sampling than in the past. Beside the monthly routine examination of T.T. milk from St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham samples of all the designated milks have been taken from persons retailing within the district. The samples submitted for examination together with the results are as follows:-

Class of Milk	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Un-Satisfactory	Not Examined
T.T.	16	13	1	2
T.T. Pasteurised	4	3	1	-
Pasteurised	9	8	1	-
Sterilised	1	1	-	-

The unsatisfactory T.T. milk was satisfactory upon resampling, but the unsatisfactory heat treated milks obtained from the same retailer were again unsatisfactory. This milk was pasteurised and bottled in Ramsgate and the matter was taken up with that Authority, who were already in contact with the dairy in view of the fact that other samples had failed. The failure of the milk to satisfy the prescribed test, was traced to a defect in the cooling plant, as a result of which all the milk is now being pasteurised by another dairy until new equipment can be installed. Since that date samples have been satisfactory.

#### (j) Ice Cream

The majority of ice cream sold in the area is manufactured by the large companies. As far as possible sampling is confined to shops dealing from the smaller firms, and also to the one shop which retails loose ice cream. With the exception of the loose ice cream samples all were reported on as being Grade 1, the loose ice cream sample was reported on as being Grade 4, which is the lowest Grade recognised by the Public Health Laboratory Service. A further examination of this sample also showed faecal coli to be present. It is felt that the cause of contamination is probably due to dirty servers, and the occupier of the business has been requested to use a sterilising agent in which to place his servers between sales. As this retailer does not retail ice cream during the winter months, it has not been possible to check on this point. Routine sampling of this product will commence as soon as possible.

(k) Slaughterhouses and Knacker Yards

There are no private slaughterhouses in use in the area but week-end slaughtering of pigs is usually carried out at St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham. Regular visits are made to the only Knacker Yard in the district, at Tyler Hill, where conditions are considered satisfactory for the number of animals slaughtered.

FOOD INSPECTION AND DISPOSAL

(a) Meat Inspection

Week-end slaughtering was carried out for most of the year at St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham and during that time the following animals were inspected:-

Cows - 6.

Pigs - 184.

It was necessary to condemn one pig, together with offal, for generalised tuberculosis. Apart from that the carcasses were found to be in an excellent condition.

(b) Other Food Inspections

From time to time the department is called in by larger retailers to inspect food stuffs, as to their fitness for human consumption. From the under-mentioned table it will be noted that the majority of the condemned food stuffs consist of canned commodities:-

40 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Canned Meat.
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Canned Vegetables.
39 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Canned Fruit.
21	lbs. Canned Milk.
9	lbs. Canned Fish.
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Dried Egg.
50	lbs. Fish Cakes.
8	lbs. Other Foods.

(c) Food Disposal

All condemned food is disposed of by being buried at the Council's refuse tips.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

1956 was the first complete year in which this Authority administered the Shops Act, 1950, in respect of the closing hours and Sunday trading, etc. The Authority has always been responsible for matters of sanitary accommodation, lighting and ventilation etc. It was possible to make 85 visits during the year and I am now able to report that all shops have

been visited since the taking over of the new duties from the Kent County Council. Of the small number of businesses which remain open for Sunday trading, a list of commodities that the occupier is allowed to sell as left for information. The figure of 112 shops does not include licenced premises, cafes and garages etc., which in most cases come under this Act. It is interesting to note that 92 of the 112 shops sell food, and except for 29 premises, all are family concerns.

#### RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control work is carried out in the district by the Public Health Foreman, who spends half of his time dealing with this work. A request was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, asking for the stepping up of inspections instead of treatments, especially in relation to farms. This resulted in over 130 visits more than the preceeding year, the number of treatments remaining more or less the same. The full table is set out below.

	Private	Local Authority	Farm	Business	Total
Inspections	257	65	80	59	461
Treatments	85	20	6	17	128

No sewer testing was carried out, as owing to the negative results in the past, this Authority has been exempt until, 1957.

#### CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits by the department re cases of infectious diseases seem to grow less each year. During the whole of this period only 10 visits were made in connection with 4 cases of scarlet fever and 1 erysipelas, and the collection of faeces specimens in contacts.

#### HOP PICKERS CAMPS

There are now 10 farms in the district providing accommodation for Hop Pickers, consisting of 15 camps which house approximately 2,500 persons. Nickel Farm, Chartham, no longer provides accommodation for hop pickers, and owing to the change of ownership of Manor Farm, Littlebourne, one of the camps is no longer used. As is the usual procedure, all the camps are inspected prior to occupation and routine visits made during occupation. 39 visits were made during the year.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Compared with some Authorities the stationing of caravans etc., is not a serious problem. There are however 6 licenced sites in the district. With the exception of Dengrove Site, Broad Oak, which is licenced for 60 vans, the sites are only permitted to accept a small number of vans. 3 new applications were received during the year, one of which was refused by Town and Country Planning, and the other two were approved for summer periods only. There are therefore, only 2 sites which can accept residential caravans.

7 licences were issued in respect of individual caravans which are renewable at the end of each year.

Numerous unlicenced caravans on the district are exempt from licencing under the Public Health Act, 1936, by reason of the fact that they are, being stored, occupied by members of the property at which the caravan is stationed, used during certain seasons by agricultural workers, occupied by members of the Showmans Guild, or are members of certain Organisations which include Caravan Clubs.

## WATER

52 visits have been made in connection with water supplies including the taking of 28 samples. Of the 28 samples taken, 23 were submitted for bacteriological examination and 5 for chemical examination. The chemical samples were reported on as being satisfactory, but 11 of the 23 bacteriological samples were unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples covered 4 areas as follows:-

### Marshside, Chislet

7 samples were taken from shallow wells serving 12 properties, all of which were seriously contaminated. The question of extending the water main to cater for all of these properties was in course of being investigated at the end of the year.

### Palmstead, Upper Hardres

The well water to the property known as Little Palmstead was reported as unsatisfactory and permission was granted to serve a Notice on the owner under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138, to connect the house to the main supply.

### Penny Pot, Waltham

During a visit to the licensed premises at Penny Pot, it was noted that the water supply was obtained from a well pumped into the kitchen. As a matter of routine this water



was sampled and found to be unsatisfactory. The brewers were asked to treat this as a matter of urgency, and received permission from a neighbouring property to connect to a private main extention.

## Harbledown

Following a request from a local Medical Practitioner the water supply serving a property at Harbledown and a neighbouring farmhouse and cottages, which received water from a main storage tank, were sampled. In view of the report on this matter the owner has decided to run separate supply pipes directly from the main to all of his properties.

The following table shows a source of supply for each Parish within the Rural District:-

<u>Name of Parish</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>
Adisham .. .. .	Thanet Water Board.
Barham .. .. .	Mid-Kent Water Co.
Bekesbourne .. .. .	Thanet Water Board
Bridge .. .. .	Thanet Water Board
Bishopsbourne. .. .. .	Thanet Water Board
Chartham.. .. .	) Canterbury Water Co. and Local Wells.
Chislet .. .. .	
Fordwich.. .. .	Canterbury Water Co.
Hackington .. .. .	Canterbury Water Co.
Harbledown .. .. .	Canterbury Water Co.
Hoath. .. .. .	Herne Bay Water Co.
Ickham and Well .. .. .	Thanet Water Board
Kingston.. .. .	Mid-Kent Water Co.
Littlebourne.. .. .	Thanet Water Board
Lower Hardres. .. .. .	Canterbury Water Co.
Patrixbourne.. .. .	Thanet Water Board.
Petham. .. .. .	Mid-Kent Water Co.
St. Cosmus & St. Damian in the Blean)	Canterbury Water Co.
Sturry .. .. .	and
Thannington Without.. .. .	) Rain Water Tanks
Upper Hardres. .. .. .	
Waltham .. .. .	Mid-Kent Water Co.
Westbere.. .. .	Canterbury Water Co.
Wickhambreaux. .. .. .	Thanet Water Board.
Womensweld .. .. .	Thanet Water Board.



## FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

From the information available there are now 48 factories (45 with power and 3 without power) and 40 workplaces. As far as factories are concerned, the only Public Health responsibility is for sanitary accommodation in factories with power, and sanitary accommodation, cleanliness, lighting and ventilation in factories without power. As this area is not an industrial one, very little is called for in the way of supervision, and during the year only 12 visits were made.

The following tables give the prescribed numbers under Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7. is enforced by Local Authority.	45	10	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7. is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	48	12	-	-

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
<u>Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)</u>					
Insufficient	1	2	-	-	-
Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
Not Separate for Sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	1	2	-	-	-

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year the new sewage disposal works at Littlebourne were completed. There are now 4 main sewage works under the control of this Authority, namely, Littlebourne, Westbere, Harbledown and Upper Harbledown. Some of the Council's post war housing estates also have small plants and Woollage Village is drained to a small works under the control of the National Coal Board. Drainage in the remaining parts of the district is generally to cesspools, septic tanks and soakaways. 78 visits were made during the year re overflowing cesspools, obstructed drains etc. Inspections of all new drainage works are carried out by the Surveyor.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

6 vehicles are employed on cesspool and pail closet emptyings. In the north part of the district, cesspools are emptied on rota every three months, and the remaining part of the district, upon receipt of requests. The number of additional emptyings carried out upon payment amounted to 37 during the year.

4 vehicles are employed in carrying out a weekly refuse collection in the district. The refuse is disposed of at 3 main tips in the district, namely, Chartham, Oldridge Wood, and Sturry. The Womenswold tip was completed during the early part of the year.

During the year, permission was granted to the Council to use some deep gravel workings at the top of Babs Oak Hill, Sturry for the deposit of household refuse. This is a great saving on the scheme as the carting of all material to Oldridge Wood, a journey of about 6 miles return, has been eliminated. It was realised that owing to the proximity of the bungalows on Babs Oak Hill, there might be complaints, and with that in view the Council were advised that properly supervised controlled tipping was necessary, as a result, a full time man was engaged.

This Authority has continued with paper salvage and during the year £943. 6s. 2d. was realised from the sale of waste paper. This is a decrease of £32. 7s. 1d. over the previous year despite increased tonnage, due to the price of waste paper falling from £8 to £7.10s. 0d. per ton. During the same period the sum of £49. 14s. 2d. was realised from the sale of scrap metal.

Other items of salvable material were sorted and collected by a local scrap dealer, for which the sum of £10 was paid.

